

Message Text

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SUBJ: FIFTH UN CONGRESS ON PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT
OF OFFENDERS, GENEVA: OPENING SESSION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: 5TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME WAS OPENED WITH SPEECH BY ASST. SECY (SIPILA) FOLLOWED BY ELECTION OF FINNISH DEL (ANTTILA) AS PRESIDENT DESPITE RUMORED OPPOSITION BY NON-ALIGNED STATES. OTHER ELECTIONS CONDUCTED WITH NO FANFARE. AGENDA WAS ADOPTED WITH POSSIBILITY OF SOME ALTERATIONS RECOMMENDED BY NETHERLANDS. END SUMMARY

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL (SIPILA) OPENED FIRST SESSION OF 5TH UN CONGRESS WITH BRIEF STATEMENT NOTING THAT THOSE WHO SURVIVED WWII CHALLENGED THE INEVITABILITY OF WAR, HUNGER DISEASE AND BOUND THEMSELVES TOGETHER IN THE UNITED NATIONS, TO BANISH WAR, OVERCOME HUNGER AND DISEASE AND RID THE WORLD OF THE SUFFERING WHICH CRIME INFLECTS. MAIN THRUST OF SPEECH WAS THE HIGH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF CRIME WHICH EXACTS A GREAT TOLL ON NATIONAL RESOURCES.

3. FINLAND DELEGATE (ANTTILA) ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION. PRIOR
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TO OPENING SESSION RUMORS WERE AFLOAT THAT NON-ALIGNED NATIONS

WOULD NOMINATE ZAMBIA MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR POST OF PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING HER SPEECH SIPILA SAID THAT ALL REGIONS SUPPORTED FINLAND AND NO OPPOSITION FROM THE FLOOR EMERGED. DASKOLOVA (BULGARIA) ELECTED HONORARY PRESIDENT. REMAINDER OF OFFICERS ELECTED ROUTINELY.

4. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (MUELLER) DISCUSSED RULES OF PROCEDURE AND MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ORDER OF PRECEDENCE IN SPEAKING AT VARIOUS SESSIONS, NOTING THAT THE RIGHT TO SPEAK WOULD BE ACCORDED TO MEMBER STATES, NON-MEMBER STATES WITH OBSERVER STATUS, AND REPS OF RECOGNIZED NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, IN THAT ORDER. PLO PRESENT FOR SESSION BUT NO MENTION MADE OF THEM BY NAME.

5. RULES OF PROCEDURE WERE ADOPTED WITH MONOR AMENDMENT. CZECH DELEGATE OBJECTED TO WIDE DISCRETION OF SECRETARIAT IN SETTING UP AGENDA AND DESIGNATING PRESIDING OFFICERS FOR VARIOUS SECTIONS, ARGUING THAT THIS CUT ACROSS AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF DELEGATION REPRESENTING PARTICIPATING MEMBERS. HE SEEMED TO PROPOSE THAT THE CONGRESS UNDERTAKE A COMPLETE RE-WRITE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. CZECH DEL FINALLY AGREED WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY THAT TASK OF REVISING RULES TOO CUMBERSOME FOR CURRENT CONGRESS TO UNDERTAKE. HE ACCEPTED PROPOSAL THAT REVISION BE ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW RULES BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR 6TH CONGRESS.

6. AGENDA ADOPTED WITH FOLLOWING POSSIBLE ALTERATION. NETHERLANDS DELEGATE POINTED OUT THAT QUESTIONS RELATED TO TORTURE WERE BEING DISCUSSED UNDER AGENDA ITEM #7 (ROLE OF POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES) AND ITEM #8 (TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS AND STANDARD MINIMUM RULE). HE SUGGESTED THAT A SMALL WORKING GROUP BE FORMED TO COORDINATE IDEAS AND PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY BOTH SECTIONS III AND IV OF THE CONGRESS. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS PASSED FOR ACTION TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF WHICH US IS MEMBER. COMMENT: COORDINATION SEEMED A SOUND IDEA AND US DELPOSED NO OBJECTION.DALE

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